



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

June 10, 2008

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2467 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Dicks:

As you are poised to begin your markup of the appropriations bill for the Department of Interior, I am writing to request your consideration of, and express my wholehearted support for, an amendment offered by Representative John Peterson. This amendment would lift the congressional moratorium for the far reaches of the Outer Continental Shelf for domestic energy exploration.

My focus on opening the outer continental shelf has always been the critical need to increase the domestic production of natural gas. Natural gas is increasingly being used as a clean-burning fuel with the lowest carbon footprint. Moreover, natural gas is needed to produce items we use everyday, from cell phones and computers to makeup and shampoo. We need natural gas to make fertilizer and grow our crops for food and biofuels. Yet, we are willing to lock up our domestic supply and pay the highest prices in the world to import natural gas drilled on our own borders.

The Peterson amendment would lift the Congressional moratoria on the outer continental shelf beyond 50 miles. This gives states a huge buffer zone and allays fears of possible environmental effects.

Removing this moratoria is a vital step to increasing the energy supply that can be produced domestically. With record energy prices, it cannot be disputed that increased domestic supplies will provide relief to the spiraling costs of imported energy. Americans all over the nation are choosing between food and filling their gas tank. Moreover, the quest for energy is upsetting our foreign policy decisions and dragging the nation into unwanted conflicts. Domestic production will lead to lower energy prices, good paying jobs and improved national security.

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I urge you to thoughtfully consider the benefits of the Peterson Amendment and vote for it during the subcommittee markup.

N  
This is our chance  
to break through on  
the economy.  
Many thanks.  
[Signature]

Sincerely,  
[Signature]  
Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress